

6. Design of system of support of roof in the development workings in underground mines by scientific support systems based on Rock-Mass-Rating studies.
7. Greater use of quick setting cement capsule grouted roof bolts for support in development workings in underground mines.
8. Reduced exposure of workers to mining hazards by mechanisation of loading operations by increasing use of SDLs and LHDs in below ground mines.
9. Thrust on training and retraining of workmen, Supervisors to increase safety awareness of the workmen.
10. A comprehensive action plan has been framed to reduce accidents in opencast mines and at surface of mines.
11. Formulation of emergency plan with mock rehearsals of the same.
12. Maintaining properly equipped and trained rescue services.
13. Regular monitoring of mine environment by hand held gas detectors and flame safety lamps for detecting inflammable and noxious gas. Besides, seven computerised continuous mine environmental tele-monitoring system are in operation in seven mines and six numbers of such systems are in pipeline.
14. Promoting workers participation in safety management through various bodies at the mine level, area level, subsidiary company level at CIL level, who regularly take stock of the safety status of mines and make recommendations, which are being implemented.

Safeguarding workers' lives in coal mines

3483. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news article which was published in the Navbharat Times dated the 5th February 2001, under the heading "Khaan main durghatana";
- (b) if so, Government's response thereto; and

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RAJYA SABHA

(c) the details of corrective step taken or proposed by Government for safeguarding of the workers' lives who are working in the Coal Industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) Yes, Sir. On 2.2.2001 at about 12.30 p.m. there was sudden inrush of water in the workings of Bagdigi where 30 persons including Manager and one Asstt. Manager were trapped. Out of 30 persons, 29 bodies have been recovered and one person Shri Salim Ansari was rescued alive from Bagdigi. The figures, as reported in the newspaper under reference are incorrect.

(b) The Ministry of Labour has constituted Court of Inquiry by Justice Gurusaran Sharma a Judge of the High Court of Jharkhand to hold a formal inquiry into the causes and circumstances leading to the accident vide notification dated 1.3.2001. Prof. Ravindranath, Professor of Mining Engineering of Benaras Hindu University, Varanasi and Shri Kamlesh Sahay, President CCL Colliery Karamchari Sangh, Barkakana have been appointed as assessors.

(c) The following steps have been taken to safeguard the workers safety:—

1. Instructions have been issued in writing to all CGM/GM of the areas that coal extraction within 60 meters from water logged working in same seam or in overlying or underlaying seams should be undertaken only with the approval by DGMS. The conditions as stipulated by DGMS will have to be followed strictly.
2. A committee consisting of senior officers have been constituted in each area, who will inspect the mines of the other area to ascertain the danger to the working districts and other workings of the mines due to inundation from surface as well as underground waters from the different areas of the same mine or of the neighbouring mines and also to ascertain danger of influx of noxious/toxic gases as well as the fire damp into the working district of other

workings either from the sealed off area of the same mine or of the other mines.

3. Old workings, isolations and fire stoppings are to be inspected as per Coal Mines Regulation.
4. Check survey of all underground mines which are prone to water danger.
5. Great emphasis has been given for quality inspection of the mines.
6. Safety committee meeting at mine level had been made more effective.
7. To inculcate safety consciousness among workers, number of measures have been proposed like organising safety week, safety drives, publicity and propaganda on safety etc.
8. Extensive training programme has been arranged to train workers, supervisory staff and executives.
9. Each area General Manager holds a special safety meeting on last Friday of the month where they discuss only about the safety matters.
10. Three outside experts had been appointed to conduct third round of safety audit to examine all aspect of safety including existing provisions and recommend precautions and has submitted their reports, which have been circulated to all collieries and areas for implementation.
11. Safety First Report of all mines are examined in every month and suitable measures are taken to ensure safety.
12. Formulation of emergency plan with mock rehearsal of the same.
13. Maintaining properly equipped and trained rescue services.